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ABSTRACT

It is estimated that there are over 10,000 non-governmental groups and initiatives in West Germany devoted to improving the quality of life of people in the developing countries. Many of these projects consist of churches helping churches, such as Misereor, the charity organization of German Catholics, or Brot fur die Welt (Bread for the World), the charity organization of the Protestant church. Initially, church funds are often used in these projects, and once an infrastructure has been developed at the project location, projects may apply for federal government funds. West Germany has granted 3.7 billion marks to such church aid organizations in the last 25 years. Political foundations that are affiliated with certain parties also contribute substantially to development initiatives, such as the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (affiliated with the Christian Democratic Union), the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (affiliated with the Social Democratic Party), the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (affiliated with the Free Democratic Party), and the Hanns Seidel Foundation (affiliated with the Christian Social Union). These projects range from small business aid and assistance in developing cooperatives to adult literacy and agricultural training programs to assistance in solving local ethnic conflicts. Several private groups also participate in various development programs, and these extensively support adult education programs. Addresses for 27 organizations sponsoring aid programs are given. (PPB)

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Help for Self-help at the Grassroots

Non-Governmental Organizations for Development Assistance in the Federal Republic of Germany

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Non-governmental development aid: help for self-help at the grassroots

The list of addresses of Third World groups and development initiatives in Land North-Rhine/Westphalia alone comprises 117 pages. If one were to compile a list of all the non-governmental organizations and groups for development aid, including all the small and very small ones, it would no doubt encompass several volumes. Volkmar Köhler, Parliamentary Secretary of State at the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation, himself a distinguished promoter of non-governmental organizations, estimates that there are over 10,000 groups and initiatives in the Federal Republic of Germany devoted to the Third World.

There is an infinite variety among the projects prepared by German initiatives and working groups to improve the quality of life of people in the developing countries. There is also a constantly increasing number of helpers showing practical solidarity in endeavours to relieve suffering in the Third World. The origin of such endeavours lies for the most part in the simple human wish to help. It is often a radio broadcast, a report on television, a newspaper article, information material from an aid organization or from the Federal Government or a trip to a country in the southern hemisphere which serves as a catalyst to awaken interest in the situation in the developing countries, to encourage people to do their bit in collections or to become active in an organization from the very start.

According to a survey carried out by the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation, almost three-quarters of all citizens of the Federal Republic of Germany support development aid. A comparison with earlier surveys has shown that the number of those giving their active and unconditional support to development aid is constantly growing. Almost half of those questioned stated that they were willing to do without a reduction in taxes if the revenue concerned were devoted to development aid instead. This trend is in line with the constant increase in donations to non-governmental aid organizations. The Protestant aid organization 'Brot für die Welt' (Bread for the

World) recorded the highest level of donations in its history in 1987-1988, a total of DM 92,500,000.

About 1.2 billion Deutsche Mark are now tranferred annually via non-governmental organizations to the Third World. The Ministry itself granted a further DM 572,000,000 in 1987 for the various projects of non-governmental organizations and thus raised the level of funding by DM 30,000,000 as compared to the previous year. This is a sign of the importance which the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany attaches to the development activities of non-governmental organizations, as was the constantly rising level of government funding in the past. There are hardly any other industrialized countries which provide such a high level of funding. In 1986, these funds constituted indeed 8.8% of the expenditures of the Ministry for Economic Co-operation.

Since 1962, a total of over six billion Deutsche Mark have been devoted to promoting church organizations, political foundations and almost eighty institutions working efficiently from a professional, personnel and financial point of view, institutions which for the most part enjoy long years of experience in co-operation with countries of the Third World. Such organizations may apply, for their various projects, to the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation for financial assistance which as a rule constitutes up to 75% of total costs. After examination of professional qualifications and impact on development policy, such funds are authorized in the form of non-repayable grants. One condition for the granting of public funds is that German private institutions have co-operating agencies in the developing countries concerned. They must also utilize the expenditures in the interests of the German tax-payer.

The Government supports these organizations since they are in a position to do something again poverty in the Third World in a particularly rapid and unbureaucratic manner and oriented to actual needs. The non-government organizations are able to reach the poorest of the poor via their local co-operating agencies and provide direct help for self-help. Efficient grassroots work has indeed become their primary characteristic. Government and

private development aid usually complement one another, for one cannot overlook the fact that private organizations are highly limited in terms of financial and manpower resources. Their projects usually have the following stages: the population explains the problems which it is not able to solve all alone to a local agency such as a co-operative or a self-help organization. The latter plans the project with the target group and looks for support in financing and implementation from a non-governmental organization in the Federal Republic of Germany. Institutions in the developing countries usually work together with German co-operating organizations having similar political, religious and humanitarian goals.

The question is often asked why there are so many non-governmental organizations in the Federal Republic of Germany. This is probably due to the German preference for a decentralized system and in particular to the fact that specialized groups have an easier time finding their 'natural' partners in the developing countries and in contacting related groups in Germany than a big and cumbersome anonymous organization would.

Churches helping churches - a bridge to the poor

Trapecino andino, the Trapeze of the Andes, is what Peruvian government officials call the southern Andes region stretching down to the border on Lake Titicaca. This is the ancient homeland of the Incas whose inhabitants today still speak the Inca languages Quechua and Aymará. The landscape, in particular the steep terraced slopes, is highly reminiscent of former grandure. Not much is left of their heyday with its bustling activity. The attitude of the highland Indians of the Province of Azángaro is one of apathy and backwardness which they seem almost to accept as their destiny. Azángaro is one of the ten provinces of the southern Peruvian administrative district. The primitive subsistance economy offers most of the 140,000 inhabitants of the province a miserable existence on the border of survival. Virtually everything which even a half-functioning community needs nowadays is missing in Azángaro: the infrastructure is very

poorly developed, schools are lacking and public health is not available in all parts. Just how dismal the economic situation is and how catastrophic medical services are is reflected in the high level of infant mortality: about 120 per thousand. In Europe infant mortality ranges from between 5 to 20 per thousand. The result of such dismal prospects for the future is urbanization; young people are abandoning the countryside and resettling in major urban centres.

Since 1984 something has been being done to combat this disastrous situation. That year, Padre Ronaldo Llenera Revilla, a priest in the extensive parish of 'Nuestra Señora de la Asunción' (Our Lady of the Assumption) set up a rural assistance and advisory service and applied for financial assistance to 'Misereor', the episcopal charity organization of German Catholics. 'Misereor' initially assisted twelve villages in the region with DM 100,000 of its own funds to set up community gardens to show the population the advantages of an improved cultivation of vegetables. The population was acquainted once again on experimental fields with traditional cereals such as tarvi, habas and quinna which had almost been forgotten. The old terraces with their cleverly designed systems of irrigation from the Inca period were also reactivated. Tools and fertilizers were bought cheaply by co-operative purchasing agencies and community stores for the farming popula[illegible] were opened.

Today, the project has entered the second phase of the integral rural development programme: this phase is to include a continuation of advisory activities, financial security for full-time staff and training for additional staff. Six development aid workers, known in project terminology as 'promoters' are to provide basic and further training courses for farming men and women and at the same time to work with them in the fields and advise them locally.

The project has since expanded. Clubs for women and mothers, grassroots training programmes in agricultural technology, measures in the field of health and hygiene have served as catalysts: more and more villages are now turning to Padre Ronaldo for assistance. Apathy, resignation and desparation

belong to the past, in particular since Padre Ronaldo has also worked to reinforce the cultural identity of the descendants of the Incas. Native music and traditional dances are encouraged in the liturgy, the village community has been strengthened and the values of tradition and history have been stressed.

Public and church funding help overcome poverty and backwardness

Since the setting up of the project with 'Misereor' funds in 1984, experience has been gathered and exchanged gradually with the farming communities there. Today it is an excellent example of public and church funding to instigate a self-supporting project. In 1986, the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation granted DM 337,000 for a further three years. The organization based in Aachen added another DM 112,000 from church taxes and donations, so-called 'church funds'.

This project in the southern Andes of Peru exemplifies many other development activities often initiated at risk with church funds. Once experience has been gathered and a staffing organized to look after book-keeping and to account for funds in line with the regulations of the Federal Audit Office, government funds in greater amounts are made available. In 1987 alone, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany earmarked DM 150,600,000 for projects of the Catholic church and the same amount for 211 projects of the Protestant church. With regard to the level of their own funding, the two major Christian churches lead all German non-government organizations for development aid by far. In 1986, 42 Protestant organizations devoted DM 463,800,000 and 81 Catholic organizations a further DM 409,700,000 to their development programmes. The churches have therefore devoted almost four Marks from their own funds for every Mark made available in public grants. This would hardly be possible without the willingness to make donations on the part of the population of the Federal Republic of Germany including Berlin (West): in 1986, DM 97,300,000 were donated to the Protestant charity organization 'Brot für die Welt' (Bread for the World). In the

same year, 'Misereor' received DM 123,200,000 in Lenten collections and individual donations.

Since 1959, a total of over 3.5 billion Marks in donations have been deposited in the accounts of 'Misereor' and 'Brot,für die Welt', a sign of agreement with the development activities of the church.

Over 25 years of close co-operation between church and state

For approximately one decade after the Second World War, the Germans themselves were recipients of foreign aid. In the fifties, therefore, the newly acquired prosperity gave rise to a desire in the church to help other suffering peoples, in turn, to improve their living conditions. In 1959 this desire was tranformed into deeds: the Protestant church set up 'Brot für die Welt' (Bread for the World) and the Catholic church set up the episcopal charity organization 'Misereor'. For over 25 years now, since the creation of the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation in 1962, close co-operation has existed between the government and the two Christian churches for the benefit of the countries of the Third World. In outlining his reasons for granting public funds to the church for its projects in Asia, Latin America and Africa, Konrad Adenauer, then Chancellor, stated that German development assistance should take advantage of ne church's relations around the globe and its professional on-site know-how. To administer government funds, the two churches set up so-called centres: the 'Protestant Centre for Development Assistance' (Evangelische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe) and the 'Catholic Centre for Development Assistance' (Katholische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe). These two centres are able to use projects funds with no political strings attached, in accordance with the needs of church development activities. It must be noted, however, that projects of a missionary character receive no government funding.

The political parties represented in the German Bundestag have always followed the development activities of the church, which

serve the direct fight against poverty, with interest and benevolence. Recognition of the church's development activities in the Third World can also be seen in the fact that the level of government funding has constantly been increasing. Of the 3.7 billion Marks which the government granted to church aid organizations over the last 25 years, 1.5 billion were granted in the period 1982 to 1987 alone.

There is no simple recipe for development aid, not even for church development aid. As a rule of thumb though, programmes with a view to the self-development of community structures enjoy highest priority in church development aid. Thus, special attention is given to rural self-supply (subsistence economy), the informal urban sector (small non-registered businesses) and the field of training and health care which are so essential to the maintenance of productive forces.

Food aid is provided by church aid organizations only in cases of real emergencies such as flooding or extreme drought, together with rehabilitation activities oriented to the causes of poverty and encouraging self-help. One distinct characteristic of church aid is that it is provided within a global network of church co-operative agencies. Common Christian values form the basis for a spirit of 'mutual trust' which is beneficial to agreement in the planning and implementation of programmes and projects for which local agencies always bear responsibility.

Churches all over the globe are the perfect partners of German church development services, not in an exclusive manner but in conscient open-mindedness to society as a whole. Co-operating agencies for church development activities can be special organizations, foundations, group initiatives and co-operatives in which those concerned are the ones bearing responsibility. Co-operation occurs from time to time with organizations which do not define themselves as Christian, such as those in Moslem countries or in India which is primarily Hindu.

Church aid is not a one-way road

"The short time I was able to work in Africa has constituted less than one-tenth of my life," wrote aid worker Wieland Walther in a brochure for the 25th anniversary of the 'Overseas Services' (Dienste im Übersee) organization. "And yet, this period has had a substantial influence on my life... First of all, I was told on my return that I had missed the latest developments in medicine which was evolving so rapidly. Of course there were indeed all sorts of new medicines... but I soon found out that I could bridge the gap quickly and that this problem was insignificant compared to the unforgettable experience I had had in Tanzania... Should I be asked what we have to learn from an underdeveloped country like Tanzania, I would reply a humane atmosphere." Walther recommended to all those returning from abroad to transform their positive experience there and to become 'development aid workers' in their own countries. He himself transformed his practical experience in Tanzania and became a country doctor in the Black Forest and continues to treat seriously ill patients as far as possible in their own homes which provide more of a healing atmosphere. He avoids, as often as possible, sending small children to hospital and endeavours to keep the dying in the comfort of their families up to the end.

Practical solidarity with the peoples of the Third World is of course the main reason for becoming an aid worker, but more and more young Germans go abroad as aid workers because they wish to get to know foreign cultures and societies. Many expect that their stays abroad will provide them with important experience for their later lives. The 'Overseas Services' organization which is responsible in the Protestant church for the finding, selecting and preparing of development aid workers and for making them available for programmes and projects has therefore drafted domestic job contracts, so-called fourth contract year for those returning from abroad. Such persons are now able, for one year, to co-operate on development subjects, problems and activities in domestic groups and organizations and make good use of the experience they gained abroad. Domestic job contracts now exist for the fields of agriculture, ecology, work on behalf of those

seeking political asylum and for the dissemination of African literature.

Just like 'Overseas Services' which sent 205 aid workers abroad last year to work on projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, its Catholic counterpart, 'Association for Development Aid' (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe) is also making use of the experience of its returning workers for Third World oriented educational activities in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Emphasis on information activities

More and more donors want solid information about the situation and the projects they support. The two major church aid organizations therefore enable church communities, 'Third World groups', school classes etc. to support specific projects they have selected themselves with collection activities. On the one hand, this enables them to trace the 'road to the donor' and on the other hand, church groups can begin to learn more about clear and concrete project situations by means of information material.

"Actually dealing with the project," says 'Brot für die Welt', "with the activities taking place within the framework of the project, with the problems which arise and with the success when it becomes evident, offers an opportunity to go beyond simply talking about people in need in the Third World and to get to know one specific aspect of development work." For example, 36 parishes and individuals, among which the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Church of Peace in Peine, the Evangelical Church in Silschede and the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Nicolay Church in Herzberg are providing support for Kenyan farmers in the community of Ndoleli about 200 kilometers northeast of Nairobi with the setting up of a seed bank. For many farmers in Meru district in eastern Kenya, the lack of seed is an acute problem, as could be seen in particular during the last period of drought. Although conditions for intensive agriculture are quite favourable, the existing potential could not be made full use of in view of inefficient planting methods, an

insufficient knowledge of storage methods and in view of the lack of seed or the presence of often inferior quality seed.

The farmers of the village had long considered setting up a community seed bank, but requisite funds were lacking. The country's Methodist Church which is the present project agency, took up the idea, and the 'Brot für die Welt' project is now being supported by the church communities in Peine, Herzberg, Silschede and others. In Ndoleli, they did not stop at a seed bank either; the project also includes a training centre for small farmers. At this centre, they learn how to improve their planting methods (agro-forestry), keep animals in stalls, and what measures to take to prevent erosion. In addition, farming methods appropriate to the area are tested on the experimental plots of the 17 hectare training centre. Also part of the project is a nursery in which drought-resistant and multi-purpose trees and bushes are grown for agro-forestry.

The political foundations: a bridge between politics and society

It is not always the case, as the old saying goes, that too many cooks spoil the soup. Sometimes they can add the 'spice of plurality' and make it more digestible. The cooks referred to here are the many church and private organizations for development assistance, in the vanguard of which (and this is a particuliarity of the Federal Republic of Germany) are the political foundations. Neither in France, Italy or in Britain do we find a similar set-up: political foundations affiliated to specific political parties.

In the Federal Republic of Germany such foundations, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation affiliated to the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the Friedrich Ebert Foundation affiliated to the Social-Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), the Friedrich Naumann Foundation affiliated to the Free Democratic Party (FDP) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation affiliated to the Christian Social Union (CSU), are an integral part of development policy. They introduce into work in the Third World their experience with a pluralist

democracy in the Federal Republic of Germany. The foundations can be seen as a 'political track' for co-operation with the many political currents, forces and groups in the developing countries which would be hard to reach in German government co-operation alone.

In accordance with their political views, the political foundations co-operate with those organizations in the Third World which conform to their own basic convictions (though modified by the varying situations from country to country and not see uniquely from a German perspective) and which support and substantially influence social life in the countries concerned. Primary among these are labour unions, co-operatives and political parties as well as public institutions devoted to a great extent to youth and adult education. They also support projects in the field of radio and television which can also be utilized for adult education. The activities of the political foundations are supplemented by the basic and further training in the Federal Republic of Germany of scholarship-holders from the developing countries. In 1987, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany provided about DM 246,000,000 to support 483 development aid projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America sponsored by the political foundations.

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation: Democracy can be learnt

FEDECOCAGUA is the Guatemalan association of agricultural co-operatives for small and medium-sized coffee growers. Almost half of the over one hundred coffee co-operatives in the Central America nation are members of it. The 50,000 small farmers who live primarily from coffee growing produce only 40% of Guatemala's production. As individuals they are defenceless against competition from the few major producers and their economic interest groups. For a long time, major buyers used to be able to dictate prices because the small farmers usually had no means of transportation, warehouses and processing centres at their disposal.

This only way out of this miserable situation is for small farmers to form co-operatives. Only in this manner can they overcome their dependence on ruthless profiteers and make a fair income for their work. In 1969, the various small co-operatives therefore set up FEDECOCAGUA, the association of small and medium-sized coffee growers. It was an attractive proposal for them since it attends to purchasing and marketing of produce for small producers, provides agro-technical advisory assistance and has set up local coffee processing plants ('beneficios'). Though 'Misereor' provided decisive assistance in the setting up of the association, it is the Konrad Adenauer Foundation which is now promoting it. The principles of the development activities of this CDU-affiliated foundation are based on social justice and the participation of all in social progress. With its educational activities in particular, the foundation helps the Guatemalan farmers raise their standard of living and their productivity. The association's activities are not restricted to economic measures; education was one of the main features from the very start. In addition to regional institutes, a central training centre was set up in Palin for general adult education, originally to promote literacy, and for agricultural training and co-operative schooling. The Konrad Adenauer Foundation supports FEDECOCAGUA with advisory and training activities such as the proper care of coffee plantations, new high-yield species and the use of fertilizers. It is helping in the setting up of credit funds for members of the co-operatives and in the setting up of dry and wet processing centres for coffee. The fact that purchasing prices are now often oriented to those of FEDECOCAGUA is a sign that the work of the association and of the foundation has been a success.

In Central America, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation is not only active in Guatemala. In Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama it is also endeavouring, via the Guatemala-based Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Políticos (INCEP), to help local politicians to pave the way for democracy and peace in Central America. For over 25 years, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation has been supporting the Instituto Nacional de Formación Agraria y Sindical (INFAS) in the Dominican Republic which has become one of the leading labour union training centres

in that Caribbean country and is affiliated with the continental association of Christian labour unions (CLAT), promoted by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and its workers's univerisity UTAL.

With its projects in Central America and the Caribbean and its activities (training projects for the most part) in Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia and Chile, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation has focussed its activities abroad on latin America. 60% of funds are devoted to this region and of the 70 foundation staff members working abroad in developing countries in 1987, 28 alone were working in the countries of Latin America. There we find many Christian-Democrat oriented organizations.

"Freedom, solidarity and justice are the guidelines of the work of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation," says Lothar Kraft, the foundation's managing director. All activities have one thing in common: they serve to promote the principles of the Christian-Democratic movement. They are oriented to a Christian view of mankind which presupposes that every person is a unique individual created by and responsible to God and with inherent rights. This view of mankind constitutes a pledge to freedom, to property involving social responsibilities and to the implementation of human rights everywhere on earth.

As to the various sectors of activities, 'political education' with about 25% of project funds in 1987 constituted the focal point of work abroad by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Support in this sector was given to the promotion of scholarly institutions and programmes, research projects, publications and the preparation of teaching material. The foundation also supports research institutes in their scholarly activities dealing for instance with the analysis of social, economic and political structures. Among the instruments of promotion of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation are scholarship programmmes and professional education for basic and further training activities. Labour unions and co-operatives in the countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia benefitted from 14.5% and 13.6% of the funds from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation respectively, followed by the fields of science with 9.1%, rural/community development with

8.7%, public administration with 8.3% and youth, women's and social activities with 6.6%.

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation: 'We want to change structures'

"Freedom and justice are twins. Freedom can only arise within the framework of a solid State order. The prime concern of those who love freedom is to protect it and restore it where it has been infringed upon," stated Friedrich Ebert on 11 February 1919 following his election as President of the German Reich. What was once said for the domestic situation in the German Reich after the November Revolution of 1918 has been chosen by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation as a motto for its worldwide activities .

Though the Friedrich Ebert Foundation was active in Germany before the Third Reich, it was only after the Second World War, in the sixties, that it took up international activities. The foundation works globally for the promotion of international understanding, co-operation on an equal basis with the developing countries and for peace on earth. Focal points of its activities are thus regions of political crisis, e.g. Central America and southern Africa. In Central America, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation is endeavouring, by means of co-operation with its partners in all six countries, to contribute to an easing of regional tension and to an introduction of a peace process and consolidation thereof. It therefore promotes on the one hand a process of democratization in the various countries concerned, such as Guatemala, and endeavours on the other hand to encourage such countries to work more closely together by reviving the idea of a Central American Common Market. Within the framework of its meetings, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation also actively supports the peace plan of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sánchez.

It is important initially, as Horst Heidermann, managing director of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation recently stated, "to stress publicity". This is done in the Third World in the form of public events and forums in which problems are publicly discussed and brought to people's attention. The addressees of the Friedrich

Ebert Foundation, which stresses the ideals and values of democratic socialism and the workers' movement, are labour unions in particular. Unions, in accordance with the thinking of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, are particularly suited to facilitating the involvement of the broad masses of society in the political, economic and social development of a country. The main instrument for the promotion of labour unions is education in the form of seminars. In 1987, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation promoted over 1200 seminars in the developing countries with 30,000 participants. The Friedrich Ebert Foundation does, however, realize that it often faces substantial difficulties in many 'fossilized' societies. In Heidermann's words, "a certain openness in society" is a prerequisite for the very beginning of meaningful activities. Although an increase in democracy has led to an improvement in conditions for the further promotion of labour unions in Latin America, especially in Argentina and Brazil, the present negative economic situation in many developing countries is rendering the activities of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and its 85 staff members abroad increasingly difficult.

In both South Africa and Sri Lanka the foundation is endeavouring to contribute to solving ethnic conflicts, in the latter country between the Tamils and Singhalese, by co-operation with various labour unions.

In 1987, the foundation carried out programmes serving, among other things, an improvement in job, health and accident security in a total of 32 developing countries with national labour union organizations. The Friedrich Ebert Foundation is also helping promote labour unions in the Third World by co-operation with international labour union organizations, in particular with international professional secretariats.

Another important focal point of the development co-operation of this SPD-affiliated foundation is the promotion of small farmers, handicraftsmen and small businessmen. Good opportunities for development exist in these fields in particular and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation regards it as important that the slogan 'Help for self-help' be made a reality. It only gets involved when the

target group in question has recognized its own problems and has taken initial measures to solve them. Those concerned decide upon the type and extent of self-help promotion they wish. Consequently not only economic development is promoted here, but social change and democratic processes are also initiated.

In Botswana, for example, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, by means of the SRDA society for the promotion of business, has contributed to the setting up of 20 small and medium-sized businesses over the last ten years to process natural resources available in the country. This resulted in the creation of over 180 full-time and over 350 part-time jobs.

The foundation is running handicraft and small business projects in countries such as Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Honduras and Thailand. In 1987 there were 200 projects in 70 European and non-European countries being run by the international division of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. In 1987, the division 'Research on Developing Countries' which provides advisory assistance to help solve urgent economic and social problems provided one trained staff member for each of 32 countries.

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation: Liberal, not politically neutral

"No one in the municipal government feels responsible," complained Doña Carmen during an open-line programme broadcast on Radio Tacuarí. Forty families from the Valleja neighbourhood of the town of Melo in Uruguay, most of whom bereft of resources, have to put up with one tap for water. And as so often occurs, the water supply was out of order again. "We are using this open-line programme to get something done," exclaimed Doña Carmen.

The open-line programme was still being aired at the local radio station 'The Voice of Melo' when the telephone in the little studio of the commercial station rang. It was the Mayor's office. Mayor Nin wanted to give his views on Doña Carmen's allegation. He started by referring to the many tasks and problems of the authorities and the lack of support by the central government. He

then invited the citizens' committee of the Valleja neighbourhood to talks and added, "Together we will soon find a way of solving the water problem in Valleja." The broadcaster, Ricardo Llosa ended the open-line programme by promising, "We're going to stay on the ball. Tomorrow we'll bring you a detailed report on the new credit programme for small farmers, but next week we'll have news from Valleja for certain."

Llosa is one of the journalists and active citizens producing news and reports in their so-called "production centre for radio stations promoting development. With these programmes aired by small local and commercial radio stations they get involved in regional and local developments. They also contribute to a rejuvenation of economic developments, but also, as in the case of Melo, of social, political and cultural developments. The people of Uruguay are thus given an opportunity to influence the political and social conditions under which they live instead of suffering passively from them.

In line with the philosophy of Friedrich Naumann, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation has been helping Uruguay, which regained democracy in 1985, through the Uruguayan Society for Information, Research and Documentation as a project agency for the training of staff for local and regional radio stations, for the setting up of a central news agency to compensate for disparities between the city and the countryside, and has been contributing to communal dialogue with forums and seminars.

The foundation, with its headquarters in Königswinter near Bonn, is also running projects for the promotion of the media and media training in Egypt, Jordan, Rwanda, the Sudan, Costa Rica and Honduras to promote journalists, an awareness for problems, and competent criticism on their part. With its media promotion in a total of twelve African and Latin American countries, it is aiming at giving people free access to information and supporting the expression of free opinions. Special importance is attached in this respect to the 'small media' such as regional radio and television stations and the local rural press.

The foundation spent almost DM 30,000,000 in 1987 for projects in Africa, Latin America and Asia. In addition to the promotion of media and media training, the work of the foundation in the Third World also includes the sectors 'Adult Political Education', 'Democracy and Human Rights', 'Political Dialogue' and 'Self-help Organizations', of which stress is put on the former, i.e. 'Adult Political Education'. The primary concern of this sector has always been socially oriented education, in addition to training in technical and manual skills and preparatory and vocational education. In accordance with the philosophy of Friedrich Naumann (1860-1919), theologian, publisher, social politician and liberal deputy in the German Reichstag, the individual is to be educated to recognize and articulate his or her own interests and to participate in politics and social life.

Human rights and democratic values are the main ideals of political liberals who in the revolution of 1848-1849 endeavoured to advance these ideals to the constitutional level. Liberals are aware from their own history that it is often difficult to implement democratic principles and preserve human rights. The local activities of the foundation in this field in particular require skill and a certain finesse. With regard to leeway for action in support of human rights, Fritz Fliszar, managing director of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, refers as an example to the success of the project to train lay judges in Peru. There they had a certain leeway because the government had an interest of its own in the autonomous functioning of justice in rural districts with the help of lay judges. A total of 9543 judges of the peace or lay judges took part in training courses organized by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (there are only 976 professional judges in Peru such that proceedings in rural districts are often conducted by lay judges).

If autonomy and self-help are to be considered elementary components of liberal development policies, it is only normal that self-help organizations be given support. Though the foundation does attach importance to a strengthening of the economy for instance by means of co-operatives which are promoted in various countries, it is more concerned as a rule with the

exercise of democratic decision-making processes and with the respect of the rules of democracy.

The Hanns Seidel Foundation: For democratic values and tradition

The Hanns Seidel Stiftung affiliated with the Christian Social Union (CSU) of Bavaria was founded as the last of the political foundations. Its first public event was held on 6 October 1967. Named after the former Bavarian Prime Minister and head of the CSU, the foundation pursues what it regards as a strengthening of democracy in a spirit based on Christian and social ethics though keeping the critical distance it regards as necessary from the political trends of the day. The institution remains devoted to the ideals of Hanns Seidel's legacy in its development activities, too, which it initiated in 1976-1977 with only DM 10,000 for a project in Africa. After this start, activities abroad developed quickly. DM 41,400,000 were earmarked in the 1987 budget for the foundation's activities in this sector. This one initial project has now developed into 52 projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, though stress remains on Africa.

Development activities are carried out via the foundation's Institute for International Meeting and Co-operation for which development assistance means concrete peace policies. The Hanns Seidel Foundation regards relieving poverty among the masses as a prerequisite for the economically and politically stable development of the Third World. But economic growth by itself is not enough to come to terms with distress and misery. On the contrary, the sections of the population which have previously been ignored must be promoted more. On an equal footing in their development policies are both the promotion of social structures and the strengthening of social factors. This means improving, strengthening and utilizing human resources whilst not disregarding the basic political and structural framework of the country concerned.

In line with the principles on which its development policy is based, the fields in which the foundation provides assistance to

solve the many existing problems are manifold. Focals points of the project activities of the Hanns Seidel Foundation are the fields of agriculture and vocational training. About 20% of activities are devoted to the latter, in particular to manual vocations, especially in the fields of construction, motor vehicles and electronics. One new aspect, a Bavarian speciality so to speak, was added this year: breweries. In co-operation with a Bavarian company which set up a brewery in the People's Republic of China, the Hanns Seidel Foundation has devoted itself to the training of Chinese brewery specialists, introducing the so-called dual system of vocational education in line with that in the Federal Republic of Germany: advanced practical training in the company parallel with theoretical education at vocational training centres. The Chinese hope in this connection to improve their vocational training substantially.

The main sectors of the foundation's activities are the promotion of administration and management training with 20% each. According to Otto Wiesheu, managing director of the Hanns Seidel Foundation, these activities are to be extended in northern Africa. Projects in these fields are to be initiated in Morocco and possibly in Tunisia. The foundation is already active in the setting up of administration schools and in the promotion of management training programmes in Egypt, Benin, the Ivory Coast, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Togo, the People's Republic of China and Zaire. The assistance provided by the foundation is realized via private and government institutions such as ministries and administrative authorities. The Hanns Seidel Foundation, however, also co-operates with labour unions and co-operatives. In 1987, 10.6% of funds for abroad were devoted to labour union and co-operative training programmes in Niger, Cameroon and Somalia, and 17% for adult social education.

Help for the poorest of the poor

German Agro Action

Over ten years ago, at the start of the 'Integrated Programme to Ensure Food' set up by German Agro Action (Deutsche Welthungerhilfe), the 'exotic' idea of the small country of the Gambia in West Africa attaining self-supply in rice by means of traditional crops like marsh and mountain rice was ridiculed. The decision of German Agro Action was not taken seriously because everywhere else irrigation rice was being promoted which, though costly, provided extremely high yields in theory. The organization was therefore given the particularly under-developed regions in the east of the country far from the capital Banjul where no other development organizations were willing to work. In the bureaucratic language of technical assistance documents, the 'experiment' sounded very much like any other: "in addition to infrastructure activities: the promotion of marsh and rain rice areas by the construction of footpaths, bridges, dams, dykes and weirs, small farmer organizational structures shall be promoted directly by means of agricultural advice in production technology for rice growing, horticulture, seed production, financing and experiments with various species of rice." And indeed bridges and dams were constructed by hired village work groups, but this was more of a means of approaching the problem, getting to know village structures. The initially two and later three aid workers of German Agro Action were at the start intent on gaining the confidence of the farmers. They endeavoured to integrate into the village community and worked with the villagers. Marlene Richter, for example, who from 1984 to 1987 was responsible for the programme's women's project, often worked days on end with the women in the rice fields and gradually gained the confidence of the various groups of women. Their aim was not to build something in record time which would then fail in the long run. From time to time, methods were altered, for example in the construction of footpaths and bridges. Initially the villagers were paid by the day for their work. "If we work as slowly as possible, we will have a constant source of income," was the logical consequence of thinking among the work groups, which meant of course that work

progressed at a snail's pace. In the end, the villagers were paid according to results: for five meters of roadwork on which three men worked they paid ten kilogrammes of rice, one liter of cooking oil and ten Dalasi. For a time they considered doing away with payments altogether, but the villages did not have sufficient resources - money and food - to be able to withdraw their workers from the subsistence economy for a substantial period of time.

Over 400 kilometers of simple earthen roads were constructed in this manner. 12.5 kilometers of simple log bridges were built and eleven weirs were set up. Over 6100 hectares of new rice fields were also constructed. And that was the most important feature. In the words of the 'Alkaali', the village chief of Dankunku, the people in the project villages began once again to believe in themselves and in a better future for the Gambia. There was certainly reason for this belief, too, since in almost twenty of the ca. sixty project villages, the 'Integrated Programme to Ensure Food' of German Agro Action has already resulted in self-supply in rice.

The smallest country on the African continent (about 11,000 square kilometers or half the size of the German Land of Hesse) is dependent to a great extent on the rice harvest. Rice has been grown in the former British colony for two hundred years but even in the best of years the harvest was never sufficient to cover needs. An average of 30,000 tons of basic foodstuffs have had to be imported annually. It is evident that with constantly falling prices for the Gambia's major export item, peanuts, this has led to a disastrously vicious circle of debt.

Today, other donor organizations are orienting themselves to the programme of German Agro Action which from 1976 to 1986 has promoted the 'Integrated Programme to Ensure Food' with a total of DM 17,400,000. About 80% of this amount was financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation, the rest was financed from the organization's own funds.

For the Gambia, this project is a trendsetter. The results of the 'Integrated Programme to Ensure Food' have been convincing.

Experts agree that rice imports could become superfluous by the mid-nineties if traditional crops are consistently promoted. As in the Gambia, German Agro Action is also active in Kenya to help the semi-nomadic Pokot in the northwest of the country to solve their most urgent problems with simple means and methods. At the grassroots and without any preconceived ideas, it is also helping the women of Lagartixa, a settlement on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, to set up a tailor shop, and is promoting the small farmers of the Olemdo district in the Ecuadorian province of Manabi. German Agro Action financed a total of 256 projects in 1987 with over DM 50,000,000, of which DM 28,400,000 derived from donations. The annual German Agro Action Week which took place in 1988 under the motto 'Environment, Development, Life' led among other things to an appeal for donations by Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker, patron of German Agro Action, which resulted in a strong rise in funds. The Bonn headquarters are now reckoning for the first time with donations amounting to over DM 30,000,000.

The 'Bensheim Group' and other private organizations: 'origins' influence the focal point of activities

Like the projects of German Agro Action, the activities of the other 28 voluntary German non-government aid organizations amalgamated in the 'Bensheim Group' benefit the poorest of the poor in the Third World directly for the most part. About 70% of their total project capacity is aimed at 'combatting poverty through self-help', in particular in the poorest of the developing countries. Other organizations such as 'Caritas Germany' (Deutscher Caritasverband) provide immediate help in times of disaster and at the same time promote social welfare projects.

A total of 80 organizations included in the 'Bensheim Group' which are neither attached to officially recognized church bodies or political parties, were promoted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation in 1987. The Ministry has supported a total of 178 projects of these organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America with about DM 52,000,000. Many of the aid organizations of the 'Bensheim Group' and others outside the church and the

political foundations have substantial knowledge and experience in specific fields due to their 'origins'. Basic health programmes for example which concentrate on the setting up and improvement of local public health services are the specialities of the German Red Cross and German Leprosy Relief. The promotional planning of the organizations is usually based on the theory that the disastrous health situation of the poorest of the poor is a result of economic problems. Accordingly, their programmes often include socio-economic measures.

'Medico International': health must come from below

Founded in 1968, the aid organization 'Medico International' began initially by providing substantial support services in catastrophes. Five years later the Frankfurt initiative started supporting long-term projects aimed at structural change: poverty disease and the life of people in the Third World are directly related to the social conditions in which they live. Increasingly, 'Medico International' has directed its aid programmes, in conjunction with local project agencies, towards combatting the causes of impoverishment. Since 1985, for example, 'Medico International' has been supporting the 'rural women's groups' in various, mostly Indian communities in Chile where programmes of preventive medicine such as drinking-water supplies and the construction of sewer systems are to be carried out.

'Medico International' works according to the principle that "health must come from below" which means more than the setting up of a field hospital or the provision of drugs.

The training of health care workers, the 'mother and child programme' and mobile medical units also play a role, as does the promotion of locally adapted agriculture and appropriate technologies. In 1987, 'Medico International' carried out projects in Central and South America, in the western Sahara, Burkina Faso, Namibia, South Africa, Lebanon, Kurdistan and the Philippines with DM 5,200,000. These involved not only immediate assistance for emergencies and for refugees but also in

particular long-term projects to provide material and financial support in the setting up of basic public health services.

Like 'Medico International', the Bonn organization 'Andheri Aid' (Andheri-Hilfe) is active primarily in the field of health. In India and Pakistan it has focussed its attention on care for the blind and for lepers. This organization has been able to help 350,000 people on the subcontinent to have operations in hospitals and mobile eye camps to restore their sight. It has also established settlements for about 10,000 lepers. In the twenty years of its existence, 'Andheri Aid' has also helped about 10,000 families with grants for more humane housing and has dug 132 new wells. The organization's education programme has now reached about 2500 villages in India and Pakistan.

'Terre des Hommes' has a heart for children

"Adama, 18 months old, weighed only 4.8 kilogrammes. He was completely desiccated and was initially given a salt/sugar solution by means of a feeding tube. It was then discovered that his head was covered with boils, then came bronchitis, an inflamation of the middle ear, amoebic dysentery, a Guinea worm in his hip and finally avitaminitis with a thick film on his eyes," reported Ursula Liskutin, a nurse at the Mother and Child Clinic in Titao in the Province of Yatenga in Burkina Faso in western Africa to the sponsoring 'Terre des Hommes' aid organization based in Osnabrück. "We pulled him through," she wrote proudly. "Six weeks later Adama was able to leave the health clinic weighing 6.7 kilogrammes."

The Mother and Child Clinics at Titao, Toma, Dano and Dessin, sponsored by the children's aid organization 'Terre des Hommes', have got many other children like Adama back on their feet. But quite often, help for wrongly fed or under-nourished children comes too late. In Burkina Faso, formerly known as Upper Volta, 200 children in 1000 die before they reach the age of five, quite often of diseases which exist in the Federal Republic of Germany too, but which are almost never mortal here. Under-nourishment

and wrong nutrition weakens the resistance of children to such an extent that they die of diarrhoea, measles, whooping cough and other lung diseases.

In its Mother and Child Clinics in Burkina Faso, 'Terre des Hommes' is concerned with improving the health situation of the most endangered part of the population, i.e. infants and small children, pregnant women and mothers, by means of health and nutrition counselling. What can be done against diarrhoea? What foods can be used to replace mothers' milk? Why are enemas detrimental to sick children? How can the birth of too many children be avoided? These are the topics of a six week course to which mothers with sick children in particular are invited at the clinics in Titao, Toma, Dano and Dessin. 'Terre des Hommes' is contributing to the setting up of the public health services for all of Burkina Faso within the framework of the latter's health policies by means of preventive measures and educational activities which according to the organization are more successful in the final analysis than food aid and activities to cure the sick.

With the slogan 'One village, one health unit', the government started a campaign in 1985-1986 with a view to setting up a health unit in each and every one of the 7000 villages in the country and staffing each of them with one primary health care worker and one midwife. In addition to the Mother and Child Clinics, 'Terre des Hommes' has provided about DM 100,000 to enable 120 villages in the Province of Yatenga to stock their health units with drugs and equipment.

Children are the focus of the work of the Osnabrück organization which in 1987 promoted over 200 projects in the Third World, some of which very small, with funding sometimes amounting to only DM 500 to 1000. This children's aid organization finances its work by up to 90% from donations. 180 local voluntary groups throughout the Federal Republic of Germany help collect donations, not only appealing for support but also providing information. 'Terre des Hommes' devoted a total of DM 14,820,000 to its work in the Third World in 1987, concentrating in particular on projects in southeast Asia with DM 2,700,000, in

southern Africa with DM 2,300,000, in Central America with DM 2,000,000 and in India and Sri Lanka with DM 1,300,000.

'Housing is a human right' - 'German Development Assistance for Social Housing and Settlement'

'German Development Assistance for Social Housing and Settlement' (Deutsche Entwicklungshilfe für soziales Wohnungs- und Siedlungswesen e.V. - DESWOS) in Cologne has a totally different priority. The development aid organization of the German non-profit housing industry has been helping since 1969 to ease the disastrous housing situation in the Third World. One-fourth of humanity, about one billion people in the developing countries quite literally lack a roof over their heads. They have no other accommodation than the streets, run-down property, garbage heaps and hovels.

'German Development Assistance for Social Housing and Settlement' does not however limit its activities to housing construction, but rather includes activities to provide income, schooling and vocational training as well as health care and social work in its projects. 'German Development Assistance for Social Housing and Settlement' holds the view that only assistance encompassing many spheres of existence can help the needy out of the vicious circle of suffering. With the help of local self-help organizations, 'German Development Assistance for Social Housing and Settlement' has assisted over 30,000 people in finding shelter and laying a new foundation for their existence. It helped in the Indian state of West Bengal, for example, in which a severe storm in the district of Udaynarayanpur in October 1985 destroyed the homes of 200 families. There were insufficient funds available for the construction of new and better houses, so the Indian self-help organization 'Sonatala Milan Sangha' turned to 'German Development Assistance for Social Housing and Settlement' for financial aid. At the end of 1986, 500 new homes had been finished and a further 300 simple houses were on the verge of completion with the help of the organization's project. The pace was also set for a better life by the promotion of training

activities in agriculture and textile production. A jury including representatives of United Nations organizations found that the project convincingly promoted social and economic development with housing as its focal point. The Udaynarayanpur project was therefore awarded the prize sponsored by the British organization 'Building and Social Housing Foundation' on the occasion of the international year of aid to people in need of housing, 1987.

Education and rural development

Education programmes including adult education constitute the most extensive sector of promotion. Adult education is supported primarily by the German Adult Education Association. In 1986 alone, this association was itself supported by federal funds amounting to DM 8,200,000.

Second to education programmes in the total number of projects of this non-government aid organization are projects on rural development. By co-operation with village organizations, self-help groups and groups of beneficiaries as well as by direct support for small farmers, the projects are particularly keyed to strengthening the rural population in the developing countries in such a manner that they can feed themselves and can reach markets as directly as possible with their products. Aside from German Agro Action, it has been the 'World Peace Service' (Weltfriedendienst), founded in 1959, which has devoted itself to these tasks. This Berlin organization wishes, in its own words, to "contribute to a reduction in the great social and economic contrast between rich and poor, between man and woman, between city and country" in the Third World. The 'World Peace Service' is presently supporting projects to supply experts for rural self-help groups for example in Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Cape Verde, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Four development aid workers have been working on the particularly arid Cape Verde island of Maio since 1978 with a view to improving community water supplies, raising food production, setting up handicrafts and improving social services. And their most important task is co-operating

with the local population in reducing ecological damage. When the Cape Verde Islands became independent after 500 years of Portuguese colonial rule, this chain of islands off the west African coast was faced with ecological disaster. Of course, the 10,000 acacia trees planted every year and the dams constructed in the arid valleys to prevent the lashing rainstorms from washing away tons of soil into the sea are but a drop in the bucket, but the new plantations are nevertheless not simply meeting needs for fire wood. In several areas on the island bright green forests have arisen. Life is returning, and with it, hope for the people that life on the island will in the long run become more bearable again.

But the 'World Peace Service' does not restrict the tasks which it has set itself to the Third World. Almost 15% of all donations (the 'World Peace Service' also receives financial support from the church development service of the Protestant church, from 'Brot für die Welt', from the European Commission and from the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation [DM 1,209,000 in 1986 alone]) are devoted to public relations and education work. This work is to help people in the Federal Republic of Germany understand more about the problems of people in the Third World and about their living conditions.

Promotion of handicrafts and small businesses

In third place in 1986 was the promotion of handicrafts and small businesses. About DM 6,700,000 were earmarked by the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation in 1986 (since 1983 under a specific budgetary section of its own) for the promotion of projects and programmes involving a series of instruments such as credit, training, counselling and the setting up of self-help organizations and partnerships between handicraftsmen in the developing countries and those in the Federal Republic of Germany. In particular the 'International Kolping Organization' (Internationale Kolpingwerke), the German section of the Organisation for Rehabilitation Through Training and some chambers of handicrafts are active in this field. But other

organizations too such as EIRENE, the 'International Christian Peace Service' (Internationale Christliche Friedensdienst), and the 'National Society of Labour Welfare' (Bundesverband der Arbeiterwohlfahrt) support handicraftsmen and tradesmen in special projects or in sub-sections of larger programmes. In the Moroccan city of Casablanca for instance, EIRENE is helping the Ain Chok Hospital in the resocialization of lepers with basic school education, training in home economics and sewing. In the hospital's training workshop groups up to ten young people are constantly being trained in metalwork and woodwork. They are taught primarily in how to use tools and simple machines. After finishing their training, the apprentices usually find jobs in small businesses and EIRENE, by providing technical and financial support, helps some of them to set up their own workshops.

In addition to the organizations promoted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation, there are a large number of initiatives, institutions, associations and working groups which contribute to development aid without government promotion. Among these, for example, are church congregations which support congregations in developing countries, and the many local voluntary workers and innumerable collections of individual groups.

In all fields, in small-scale agriculture, in the field of handicrafts and trade, in adult education and in the health sector, projects and activities of non-government organizations are providing assistance to the poorest of the poor and to groups on the fringe of society. Such assistance usually supports self-help activities, since these organizations are aware that self-help cannot be imposed. From the birth of a self-help group to the moment it can stand on its own two feet is usually a long process. As such, non-government organizations give preference in such cases to contacts in tradition communities such as village working and vocational groups.

(IN-Press)

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